



Colorado Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps

(COVMRC)







 Animal emergency responders and veterinary professionals with the training and credentialing necessary to support animal care and animal health during emergencies and public health emergency response.

 Available to support local animal emergency response efforts, animal disease outbreaks, criminal seizures, emergency sheltering, and animal evacuation

Veterinary Me

East (Front Range) and West Units

Who are we?

- Volunteers are required to complete IS100 and IS700, complete our COVMRC Animal Response Training, pass a background check and verification of credentials.
- Other trainings: Animal Behavior, animal disaster sheltering, technical animal response trainings, table-top exercises, full scale exercises.

Trainings







- By **local emergency management** to provide veterinary and animal emergency response support during emergency situations.
- By the State Veterinarian during an animal health emergency or other state-level incident where veterinary and animal response personnel are needed.
- By the **Unit Coordinator** to support a local animal welfare shelter during a disaster or a law enforcement agency in need of assistance during a criminal seizure and follow up care for the animals seized. The West unit assists with the criminal cases.

Deployment









Animal Response and Emergency Management

People will risk their lives to protect animals

- Can put themselves and responders at risk
- Redeployment of law enforcement resources and other first responders
- This is not just a companion animal issue



An issue of public safety



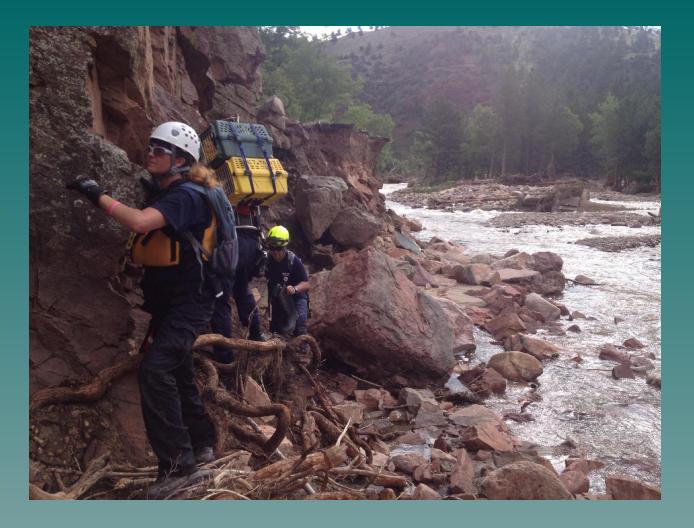
Hurricane Katrina

Laid the foundation for current response operations

- Pet Evacuation and Transportation Act (PETS Act),
 October 2006
 - Requires state and local plans for household pets and service animals
 - Allows FEMA cost-sharing for services in support of people with household pets and service animals
 - Allows FEMA director to make contributions for preparedness



Response Authority



Colorado Floods 2013

Boulder County

"No Pets Left Behind"

- Estimated 12,000 people evacuated and rescued
- Estimated same number of pets
- More people and pets were airlifted from the floods than in Katrina
- Helicopters said they took more pets than people
- People would not evacuate without their pets

PetAid &COVMRC's Roles

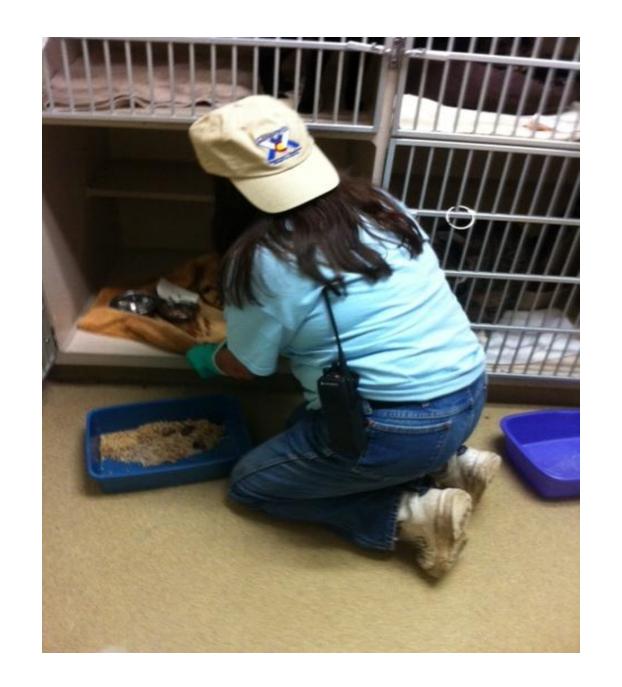
- Assessment of need by PetAid
- Determined that SAR is needed in Boulder County disaster zones
- American Humane and Code 3 Associates were requested for a technical animal response team
- COVMRC-East deployed to Larimer County to assist the National Guard with the airlifts

Search and Rescue

- American Humane & Code 3 worked with the Boulder County Sheriff's Department Animal Control for 6 days, in the Lyons area and many different canyons
- Rescued 200 animals, taking the pets to Boulder County Humane and Longmont Humane, livestock animals went to the Boulder Fairgrounds
- Animals included, fish, reptiles, cats, dogs, chickens, ducks, turtles
- Most people had gotten out with their dogs, many cats had spooked and gone into hiding
- We also cared for many livestock animals in place, providing food water and making sure that they were not in danger

COVMRC-West

- Deployed on 9/21/2013 till 9/26/2013to assist Longmont Humane Society with the care of 250 evacuated animals
- Primarily, we helped care for the evacuated and rescued cats
- We also assisted with decontamination, helping evacuees visit with their animals, reunifications, and getting donations to people needing supplies







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